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666 lemma • leopard frog

lemma *n* [Gk, husk, fr. *lepein* to peel — more at **LEPER**] (1906): the lower of the two bracts enclosing the flower in the spikelet of grasses
lem-ming \le-mig\ *n* [Norw] (1713): any of various small short-tailed furry-footed rodents (as genera *Lemmus* and *Dicrostonyx*) of circumpolar distribution that are notable for the recurrent mass migrations of a European form (*L. lemmus*) which often continue into the sea where vast numbers are drowned — **lem-ming-like** \-lik\ *adj*
lem-nis-cate \lem-nis-kot\ *n* [NL *lemniscata*, fr. fem. of *L. lemniscatus* with hanging ribbons, fr. *lemniscus*] (ca. 1781): a figure-eight shaped curve whose equation in polar coordinates is $p^2 = a^2 \cos 2\theta$ or $p^2 = a^2 \sin 2\theta$
lem-nis-cus \lem-nis-kos\ *n*, *pl* -nis-ci \-nis-ki, -kē; -ni-si\ [NL, fr. L, ribbon, fr. Gk *lemniskos*] (ca. 1905): a band of fibers and esp. nerve fibers — **lem-nis-cal** \-kol\ *adj*
lem-on \le-mon\ *n* [ME *lymon*, fr. MF *limon* fr. ML *limon*, *lima*, fr. Ar *laymūn*] (15c) **1** *a*: an acid fruit that is botanically a many-seeded pale yellow oblong berry and is produced by a small thorny tree (*Citrus limon*) **2** *a*: a tree that bears lemons **2** *a*: one (as an automobile) that is unsatisfactory or defective — **lem-only** \le-mo-nē\ *adj*
lemon *adj* (1598) **1**: of the color lemon yellow **2** *a*: containing lemon **b**: having the flavor or scent of lemon
lem-on-ade \le-mo-nād\ *n* (1604): a beverage of sweetened lemon juice mixed with water
lemon balm *n* (ca. 1888): a bushy perennial Old World mint (*Melissa officinalis*) often cultivated for its fragrant lemon-flavored leaves
lem-on-grass \le-mon-gras\ *n* (1801): a grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*) of robust habit that grows in tropical regions, is used as an herb, and is the source of an essential oil with an odor of lemon or verbena
lemon law *n* (1982): a law offering car buyers relief (as by repair, replacement, or refund) for defects detected during a specified period after purchase
lemon shark *n* (1942): a medium-sized requiem shark (*Negaprion brevirostris*) of the warm Atlantic that is yellowish brown to gray above with yellow or greenish sides
lemon sole *n* (1876): any of several flatfishes and esp. flounders: as **a**: a bottom-dwelling flounder (*Microstomus kitt*) of the northeastern Atlantic that is an important food fish **b**: WINTER FLOUNDER
lemon yellow *n* (1807): a brilliant greenish yellow color
lem-pi-ra \lem-pir-a\ *n* [AmerSp, fr. *Lempira*, 16th cent. Indian chief] (ca. 1934) — see **MONEY** table
le-mur \le-mor\ *n* [NL, fr. L *lemures*, pl. *ghosts*] (1793): any of various arboreal chiefly nocturnal mammals that were formerly widespread but are now largely confined to Madagascar, are related to the monkeys but are usu. regarded as constituting a distinct superfamily (Lemuroidea), and usu. have a muzzle like a fox, large eyes, very soft woolly fur, and a long furry tail
le-mu-res \le-mo-ras, -lem-yo-ras\ *n* *pl* [L] (1555): spirits of the unburied dead exorcised from homes in early Roman religious rites
lend \lend\ *vb* **lent** \lent\; **lend-ing** [ME *lenen*, *lenden*, fr. OE *lēnan*, fr. *lēn* loan — more at **LOAN**] *vi* (bef. 12c) **1** *a*: to give for temporary use on condition that the same or its equivalent be returned **b**: to let out (money) for temporary use on condition of repayment with interest **2** *a*: to give the assistance or support of: AFFORD, FURNISH (a dispassionate and scholarly manner which ~s great force to his criticisms — *Times Lit. Supp.*) **b**: to adapt or apply (oneself) readily: ACCOMMODATE (a topic that ~s itself admirably to class discussion) ~ *vi*: to make a loan *usage* see **LOAN** — **lend-able** \lend-də-bəl\ *adj* — **lend-er** *n*
lending library *n* (1708): a library from which materials are lent; esp.: RENTAL LIBRARY
lend-lease \lend-les\ *n* [U.S. Lend-Lease Act (1941)] (1941): the transfer of goods and services to an ally to aid in a common cause with payment made by a return of the original items or their use in the cause or by a similar transfer of other goods and services — **lend-lease** *vi*
length \len(k)th, -len(t)th\ *n*, *pl* lengths \len(k)ths, -len(t)ths, -len(k)s\ [ME *lengthe*, fr. OE *lengthu*, fr. *lang* long] (bef. 12c) **1** *a*: the longer or longest dimension of an object **b**: a measured distance or dimension (10 feet in ~) — see **METRIC SYSTEM** table, **WEIGHT** table **c**: the quality or state of being long **2** *a*: duration or extent in time **b**: relative duration or stress of a sound **3** *a*: distance or extent in space **b**: the length of something taken as a unit of measure (his horse led by a ~) **4**: the degree to which something (as a course of action or a line of thought) is carried — often used in pl. (went to great ~s to learn the truth) **5** *a*: a long expanse or stretch **b**: a piece constituting or usable as part of a whole or of a connected series: SECTION (a ~ of pipe) **6**: a vertical dimension of an article of clothing — at length **1**: FULLY, COMPREHENSIVELY **2**: at last: FINALLY
length-en \len(k)-than, -len(t)-\ *vb* **length-ened**; **length-en-ing** \len(k)-th-ing, -len(t)-th-ing\ *vi* (14c): to make longer ~ *vi*: to grow longer *syn* see **EXTEND** — **length-en-er** \len(k)-th-er, -len(t)-th-er\ *n*
length-ways \len(k)-th-wāz, -len(t)-th-wāz\ *adv* (1599): LENGTHWISE
length-wise \-wīz\ *adv* (ca. 1580): in the direction of the length: LONGITUDINALLY — **lengthwise** *adj*
lengthy \len(k)-thē, -len(t)-\ *adj* **length-i-er**; -est (1689) **1**: protracted excessively: OVERLONG **2**: EXTENDED, LONG — **length-i-ly** \-thē-lē\ *adv* — **length-i-ness** \-thē-nas\ *n*



lemon 1: branch with fruit and flowers



lemur

le-nience \le-nyan(t)s, -nē-an(t)s\ *n* (1796): LENIENCY
le-nien-cy \le-nē-an(t)s, -nyant(s)\ *n*, *pl* -cies (1780) **1**: the quality or state of being lenient **2**: a lenient disposition or practice *syn* see **MERCY**
le-nient \le-nē-ant, -nyant\ *adj* [L *lenient*, *leniens*, prp. of *lenire* to soften, soothe, fr. *lenis* soft, mild; prob. akin to Lith *lėnas* tranquil — more at **LET**] (1652) **1**: exerting a soothing or easing influence: relieving pain or stress **2**: of mild and tolerant disposition; esp.: INDULGENT — **le-nient-ly** *adv*
Leni-Len-a-pe or **Len-ni-Len-a-pe** \le-nē-le-na-pē, -lə-nā-pē\ *n* [Delaware (Unami dialects) *lən-lə-nā-pē*] (ca. 1782): DELAWARE **1**
Le-nin-ism \le-na-ni-zəm\ *n* (1918): the political, economic, and social principles and policies advocated by Lenin; esp.: the theory and practice of communism developed by or associated with Lenin — **Le-nin-ist** \-nist\ *n* or *adj* — **Le-nin-ite** \-nit\ *n* or *adj*
le-nis \le-nas, -lə-\ *adj* [NL, fr. L *mild*, smooth] (ca. 1897): produced with an articulation that is lax in relation to another speech sound (\i\ in gutter is ~, \i\ in toe is fortis)
len-i-tion \lə-ni-shən\ *n* [L *lenire*] (1912): the change from fortis to lenis articulation
len-i-tive \le-na-tiv\ *adj* [ME *lenitif*, fr. MF, fr. ML *lenitivus*, fr. L *lenitus*, pp. of *lenire*] (15c): alleviating pain or harshness: SOOTHING — **lenitive** *n* — **len-i-tive-ly** *adv*
len-i-ty \le-na-tē\ *n* (1548): the quality or state of being lenient: CLEMENCY
le-no \le-(n)ō\ *n* [perh. fr. F *linon* linen fabric, lawn, fr. MF *lin* flax, linen, fr. L *linum* flax] (1821) **1**: an open weave in which pairs of warp yarns cross one another and thereby lock the filling yarn in position **2**: a fabric made with a leno weave
lens also *lense* \lenz\ *n* [NL *lent*, *lens*, fr. L *lentil*; fr. its shape] (1693) **1** *a*: a piece of transparent material (as glass) that has two opposite regular surfaces either both curved or one curved and the other plane and that is used either singly or combined in an optical instrument for forming an image by focusing rays of light **b**: a combination of two or more simple lenses **c**: a piece of glass or plastic used (as in safety goggles or sunglasses) to protect the eye **2**: a device for directing or focusing radiation other than light (as sound waves, radio microwaves, or electrons) **3**: something shaped like a double-convex optical lens (~ of sandstone) **4**: a highly transparent biconvex lens-shaped or nearly spherical body in the eye that focuses light rays (as upon the retina) — see **EYE** illustration **5**: something that facilitates and influences perception, comprehension, or evaluation (the author's own ~ seems blurred by bias — Seymour Topping) — **lensed** *adj* — **lens-less** \lenz-ləs\ *adj*
lens vi (1942): to make a motion picture of: FILM
lens-man \-mən, -man\ *n* (1938): PHOTOGRAPHER
lent \lent\ *n* [ME *lente* springtime, Lent, fr. OE *lenten*; akin to OHG *lentin* spring] (13c): the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by the Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some Protestant churches as a period of penitence and fasting
len-ta-men-te \len-tə-men-tē\ *adv* or *adj* [It, fr. *lento* slow] (1724): LENTO
len-tan-do \len-tān-(d)ō\ *adv* or *adj* [It] (ca. 1847): becoming slower — used as a direction in music
lent-en \len-tēn\ *adj* (bef. 12c): of, relating to, or suitable for Lent; esp.: MEAGER (~ fare)
len-tic \len-tik\ *adj* [L *lentus* sluggish] (ca. 1938): of, relating to, or living in still waters (as lakes, ponds, or swamps) — compare **LOTIC**
len-ti-cel \len-tə-sel\ *n* [NL *lenticella*, dim. of L *lent*, *lens* lentil] (ca. 1864): a loose aggregation of cells which penetrates the surface (as of a stem) of a woody plant and through which gases are exchanged between the atmosphere and the underlying tissues
len-tic-u-lar \len-ti-kyū-lar\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *lenticularis* lentil-shaped, fr. *lenticula* lentil] (15c) **1**: having the shape of a double-convex lens **2**: of or relating to a lens **3**: provided with or utilizing lenticles (a ~ screen)
len-ti-cule \len-tə-kyū-(s)\ *n* [L *lenticula*] (1942) **1**: any of the minute lenses on the base side of a film used in stereoscopic or color photography **2**: any of the tiny corrugations or grooves molded or embossed into the surface of a projection screen
len-til \len-tē\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *lentille*, fr. L *lenticula*, dim. of *lent*, *lens*] (13c) **1**: a widely cultivated Eurasian annual leguminous plant (*Lens culinaris*) with flattened edible seeds and leafy stalks used as fodder **2**: the seed of the lentil
len-tis-si-mo \len-ti-si-mō\ *adv* or *adj* [It, superl. of *lento*] (ca. 1903): at a very slow tempo — used as a direction in music
len-ti-vi-rus \len-tə-vi-ras\ *n* [NL, fr. L *lentus* slow + NL *virus*] (1982): any of a group of retroviruses that cause slowly progressive often fatal animal diseases
len-to \len-(t)ō\ *adv* or *adj* [It, fr. *lento*, adj., slow, fr. L *lentus* pliant, sluggish, slow — more at **LITHE**] (ca. 1724): at a slow tempo — used esp. as a direction in music
Leo \lē-(d)\ *n* [L (gen. *Leonis*), lit., lion — more at **LION**] **1**: a northern constellation east of Cancer **2** *a*: the 5th sign of the zodiac in astrology — see **ZODIAC** table **b**: one born under this sign — **Le-o-nine** \lē-ō-nin\ *adj*
le-one \lē-ōn\ *n*, *pl* leones or leone [Sierra Leone] (1964) — see **MONEY** table
Le-o-nid \lē-ō-nid\ *n*, *pl* Leonids or Le-on-i-des \lē-ō-nō-dēz\ [L *Leon*, *Leo*: fr. their appearing to radiate from a point in Leo] (1876): any of the meteors in a meteor shower occurring every year about November 14
le-o-nine \lē-ō-nin\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *leoninus* fr. *leon*, *leo*] (14c): of, relating to, suggestive of, or resembling a lion
leopard \le-pard\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *leopard*, fr. LL *leopardus*, fr. Gk *leopardos*, fr. *leōn* lion + *pardos* leopard] (13c) **1**: a large strong cat (*Panthera pardus*) of southern Asia and Africa that is adept at climbing and is usu. tawny or buff with black spots arranged in rosettes — called also *panther* **2**: a heraldic representation of a lion passant guardant — **leopard-ess** \-pərd-əs\ *n*
leopard frog *n* (1839): a common No. American frog (*Rana pipiens*) that is bright green or brown with large black white-margined blotches on the back; also: a similar frog (*R. sphenoccephala*) of the southeastern U.S.